

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

HEW-02 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /067 W

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R 110733Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8269

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3082

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM SONGKHLA FEB 9 REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SEDU, TH

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY PEOPLE CYNICAL ON KHUKRIT'S MUSLIM
EDUCATION POLICY

REF: SONGKHLA 029

1. RECENT TALKS WITH UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS IN SOUTH SHOW ANNOYANCE AT PM KHUKRIT'S STATEMENT REFTEL THAT MUSLIMS FORMERLY GIVEN UNIVERSITY SLOTS WITHOUT PASSING ENTRANCE EXAMS WILL NO LONGER BE GIVEN SUCH SPECIAL TREATMENT. CYNICISM HERE STEMS FROM FACT THAT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM, WHICH WAS STARTED FIVE YEARS AGO, ARE DUE TO RUN OUT THIS YEAR AND PROGRAM WILL NOT BE RENEWED. THEREFORE, PM WAS MERELY USING KNOWN FACT TO MAKE CHAUVANISTIC STATEMENT DESIGNED TO PLEASE THAI IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY AND ANGER MUSLIMS HERE-- THEREBY MAKING LOCAL OFFICIALS JOB MORE DIFFICULT.

2. PROGRAM WAS PHASED OUT SINCE THOSE MUSLIMS GRANTED SUCH PREFERENCES USUALLY WERE FRIENDS OF LOCAL LEADERS
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AND NOT ESPECIALLY GOOD STUDENTS. UNIVERSITIES DOWN HERE

HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO EXPEND ENERGY ON MUSLIM HIGH SCHOOLS AND ATTACK EDUCATION PROBLEM THERE. PM'S STATEMENT THAT MONEY WILL NOW BE SPENT ON MUSLIM SECONDARY EDUCATION IS ALSO AFTER THE FACT, AS WAS HIS CLAIM THAT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITIES WILL HAVE SPECIAL QUOTA FOR SOUTHERN STUDENTS-- THIS ALSO HAS BEEN IN PRACTICE SEVERAL YEARS.

3. UNIVERSITY PEOPLE HERE TURNED OFF BY PM'S BALDLY POLITICAL PERFORMANCE AND CONFIRM IDEA SUGGESTED REFTEL THAT PM MOUTHED SUPPORT FOR LOCAL RIGHTISTS WHILE DOWN HERE WITHOUT BOTHERING TO UNDERSTAND SITUATION. CASTRODALE

UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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